

State Agency Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Report Card

Background

Under Section 12890 of Part 2.5 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code (as contained in SB 85, 2007), the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) is required to prepare an annual report describing state agency actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. State Agencies are required to prepare and submit to Cal/EPA two lists of GHG reduction measures.

The first:

“A list of those measures that have been adopted and implemented by the state agency to meet GHG emission reduction targets and a status report on actual GHG emissions reduced as a result of these measures.”

The second:

“A list and timetable for adoption of any additional measures needed to meet GHG emission reduction targets.”

Cal/EPA is required to compile and organize this information in the form of a ‘Report Card’ and post it on the Cal/EPA website. The Report Card must also compare the reductions from actions taken or proposed to be taken by a state agency to that agency’s GHG reduction targets and to the statewide GHG emission reduction goals.

Approach for the Second Climate Change Report Card

Below we describe the tables in this report and the method Cal/EPA used to compile the information. This is the second of these yearly reports. It is important to note that the first Report Card, completed in April 2008, was done prior to the development of the Scoping Plan required by the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. As such, the first Report Card included many strategies in the very early stages of development, some of which changed significantly or were not pursued further for various reasons. The strategies and measures in this second edition of the Report Card are those that are expected to be developed through full implementation. They are either included in the Scoping Plan or have been initiated as separate actions by individual agencies in support of the state’s long-term GHG emission reduction goals.

The original format for the Report Card has also been changed. In this edition, the numbering system used for strategies in the Scoping Plan has been adopted for the Report Card as well. All strategies are identified in one of three ways: by the specific strategy number as found in Appendix E of the Scoping Plan; by citation as to where in the Scoping Plan the measure is discussed if it is not a specific numerated strategy; or as a measure ‘not in the scoping plan’ if it is being initiated by an agency in support of overall GHG emission reduction goals outside the Scoping Plan process. This revised structure will facilitate tracking the strategies as they progress through development stages and tie them to the emission reduction targets set out in the Scoping Plan.

Tables in the Report Card

1. On-going Measures and Reductions in 2007: Several GHG emission reduction measures were in place in 2007, including: forest management practices; solid waste recycling; energy efficiency programs; building energy efficiency standards; and appliance energy efficiency standards. The emission reductions achieved by these measures in calendar year 2007 reported to Cal/EPA by the responsible agencies are shown in Table 1.

2. GHG Emission Reduction Strategies, and Timelines for Implementation: The Climate Action Team (CAT) agencies also provided Cal/EPA with information regarding the strategies and measures that they will be implementing over the next few years, including the expected GHG emission reduction from each, and the timeframe for completion. This information is reported in Table 2.

The timeframes noted in Table 2 reflect current estimates based on the work to date. Where the timetable indicates “To Be Determined (TBD)”, work on the measure is in preliminary stages. Measures described as “on-going” have already begun, but either the final completion dates are still to be determined, or they are programs being implemented on a continuous basis. Future Report Cards will update these completion dates as implementation efforts mature.

There are several factors to consider regarding the reported GHG emission reductions in Table 2. There are a number of strategies with cross-agency implementation responsibilities for which individual agency reduction targets cannot be defined at this time. The total reduction for these measures may be listed twice to reflect that each agency is in fact responsible for some portion of the reductions. There are also several individual measures for which there are interacting impacts so that the reduction numbers from each are not strictly additive (as recognized and explained in the AB 32 Scoping Plan). Also, there are a number of CAT agency efforts which are not reflected in the AB 32 Scoping Plan, several of which have emission reductions which are reported as TBD. Additionally, the reductions categorized in the Report Card as “Cap and Trade Program” have yet to be determined, as explained in Table 2.

3. Agency and State Target Comparison: We used the statewide reduction goal for 2020 of 174 MMTCO₂E in 2020 as established pursuant to AB 32. The agency targets were developed based on the strategies that the agencies will implement in the coming years. Unlike the measures from Table 2, the targets reported in Table 3 consider the interactions among strategies and the divided responsibility among agencies. Currently the sum of the state agency targets is 140 MMTCO₂E, which does not yet include an estimate of emission reduction from the cap-and-trade program.